



By the King.

A Proclamation for the establishing of the Peace
and Quiet of the Church of England.



The Kings most Excellent Maiesty, in His most religious care, and princely consideration, of the peace of this Church & Common wealth of England, and other his Dominions, whereof God of his goodnes hath, vnder his Sonne Christ Iesus, made him the supreame Gouernour, obserning, that in all ages great disturbances, both to Church and State, haue ensued out of small beginnings, when the seedes of Contention were not timely preuented; and finding that of late some Questions and Opinions seeme to haue been broched or rased in matters of Doctrine, and the Tenents of our Religion, which at first onely being meant against the Papists, but afterwards by the sharpe and indiscreete handling and maintaining of some of either parts, haue giuen much offence to the sober and well grounded Readers, and hearers of these late written bookees on both sides, which may iustly be feared, will raise some hopes in the professed enemies of our Religion, the Romish Catholkes, that by degrees, the professours of our Religion may bee drawen first to Schisme, and after to plaine Popery.

His Maiestie therefore, in the integrity of His owne heart, and singular prouidence of the peaceable gouernment of that people, which God hath committed to His charge, hath thought fit, by the aduice of His reverend Bishops, to declare and publish, not onely to His owne people, but also to the whole world, His bitter dislike to all those, who to shew the subtillty of their wits, or to please their owne humours, or vent their owne passions, doe, or shall aduenture to stirre or moue any new Opinions, not only contrary, but differing from the sound and Orthodoxall grounds of the true Religion, sincerely professed, and happily established in the Church of England; And also to declare His full and constant resolution, that neither in matter of Doctrine, or Discipline of the Church, nor in the government of the State, he will admit of the least innovation, but by Gods assistance will so guide the Scepter of these His Kingdomes and Dominions, by the Divine prouidence put into his hand, as shall be for the comfort and assurance of His sober, religious, and well affected Subjects, and for the repressing and severe punishing of the insolencies of such, as out of any sinister respects, or disaffection to his Person or Gouernment, shalldare either in Church or State, to disturbe or disquiet the peace thereof.

And therefore his most excellent Maiestie, doth hereby admonish, and also straitly charge and command all his subiects of this Realme, and of his Realme of Ireland, of whatsoeuer degree, qualitie, or condition they be of, especially those who are Church-men, and by their Profession and places, ought to be Lights and Guides to others, that from henceforth they carry themselves so wisely, warily, and concionably, that neither by writing, Preaching, Printing, Conferences, or otherwise, they raise any doubts, or publish, or maintaine any new Inventions, or opinions concerning Religion, then such as are clearly grounded, and warrantied by the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of England, heretofore published, and happily established by authorite. And if any person, of what degree soever, shall at any time hereafter, aduenture to breake this Rule of sobrietie, and due obedience to his Maiestie, and his Lawes, and to this religious duetie to the Church of God; His Maiestie doth hereby straitly charge, and command all his reverend Archbishops and Bishops in their severall Diocesses, speedly to reclame and reppresse all such spirits, as shall in the least degree attempt to violate this bond of peace. And his Maiestie doth also charge and command all his Counsellors of State, Judges, Justices and ministers of Justice whatsoeuer, that they in their severall places take especiall care, to obserue and execute his Maiesties pious and Royall pleasure herein expressed.

And lastly, his Maiestie doth hereby give assurance to all whom it may concerne, that such as shall take the boldnesse wilfully to neglect this his Maiesties gracious admonition, and for the satisfying of their vnquiet and restlesse spirits, or to expresse their rash or vndutifull insolencies, shall wilfully breake that circle of Order, which without apparent danger to Church and State, may not bee broken; That his Maiestie shall and will proceed against all such offenders, and wilfull contemners of his gracious and Religious government, with that severitie, as upon due consideration had of the qualitie of their offences and contempts they shall deserue, that so by the exemplary punishment of some few, who by lenitie and mercy cannot be wonne, all others may be warned, and take heed, how they fall into the just indignation of their Souveraigne, and that all his Maiesties good and loving subiects, who are studious of the peace and prosperitie of this Church and Common Wealth, may blesse God, for his Maiesties pious, religious, wise, just, and gracious government.

Given at Our Palace of White-Hall, the 14. of Iune, in the second yere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine,
France and Ireland.

God sauе the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and John Bill, Printers
to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.

M.DC.XXVI.